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Aug 30th 2018

Via ECFS  
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to  
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

I am writing to inform you that I oppose the US Telecom Association's recently submitted petition, on behalf of AT&T and other gigantic corporations, that would eliminate the right of independent carriers to serve customers on copper lines and to use spare fiber to make connections between cities. This petition would reduce competition, drive up prices for consumers, be a violation of fairness and of what is supposed to be a genuinely free enterprise economy.

I am a very satisfied customer of LMI.net, a local, sustainable, ecologically responsible company. They provide me with the best quality Internet and home phone service I have ever had at monthly costs lower than those that any of the huge corporations offer. As a senior citizen with limited income, this more affordable option is something I am greatly appreciative of. I depend very much on Internet access for connections with family and friends, for scholarly research, and for aspects of the work I do as an independent contractor.

It would be a betrayal of the needs and rights of working people, families, the elderly, and the less privileged for the FCC to rule in favor of the US Telecom Association's petition that would reduce competition, squelch innovation, raise prices to harmful levels for consumers, and further the already egregious inequalities of wealth distribution in this country.

Please remember that the government and its agencies need to serve the interests of the common people, not the greed and selfishness of the wealthiest few.

Mitch Hall